Amendments to the Claims:

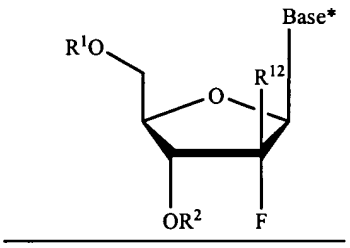
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

CLAIMS

1-11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method for the treatment of a host infected with a ~~*Flaviviridae*~~ hepatitis C virus, comprising administering an effective treatment amount of a compound ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1-11,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof~~.~~ ,wherein the compound has the formula:



wherein:

R^1 is H; mono, di or triphosphate; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^1 is H or phosphate;

R^2 is H, acyl, an amino acid ester, a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^2 is H;

Base* is a purine or pyrimidine base;

R^{12} is $C(Y^3)_3$;

Y^3 is independently H or F.

13. (original): The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is H.

14-17. (cancelled)

18. (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is in the form of a dosage unit.

19. (currently amended): The method of claim 18 wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg ~~or 0.1 to 50 mg of the compound~~.

20. (original): The method of claim 18 wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

21. (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the host is a human.

22. (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is in substantially pure form.

23. (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 90% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

24. (original): The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 95% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

25. (currently amended): The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of a tosylate, methanesulfonate, acetate, citrate, malonate, tartarate, succinate, benzoate, ascorate, α-ketoglutarate, α-glycerophosphate, formate, fumarate, propionate, glycolate, lactate, pyruvate, oxalate, maleate, salicylate, sulfate, nitrate, ~~bicarbonate, carbonate salts,~~ hydrobromate, hydrochloride, di-hydrochloride, and phosphoric acid salt.

26. (original): The method of claim 25, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.

27-43. (cancelled)

44. (new): The method of claim 12, wherein Y^3 is H.

45. (new): The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is acyl.

46. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an amino acid ester.

47. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is a peptide.

48. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is a carbohydrate.

49. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R^1 is hydrogen.

50. (new): The method of claim 12, wherein the base is a purine base.

51. (new): The method of claim 12, wherein the base is a pyrimidine base.

52. (new): The method of claim 51, wherein the pyrimidine base is cytosine.

53. (new): The method of claim 51, wherein the pyrimidine base is thymine.

54. (new): The method of claim 51, wherein the pyrimidine base is uracil.

55. (new): The method of claim 50, wherein the purine base is adenine.

56. (new): The method of claim 50, wherein the purine base is guanine.

57. (new): The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched, or cyclic alkyl.

58. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.

59. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R' wherein R' is aryl.

60. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein R^2 is acetyl.

61. (new) The method of claim 45, wherein R^2 is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl, or 2-propenyl.

62. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.

63. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic α, β, γ, or δ amino acid.

64. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.

65. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an ester of valine.

66. (new) The method of claim 62, wherein host is human.

67. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein:

Base is a pyrimidine base;

R^1 is H;

R^2 is H, acyl or an amino acid ester; and

Y^3 is H.

68. (new): The method of claim 67, wherein the pyrimidine base is cytosine.

69. (new): The method of claim 67, wherein the pyrimidine base is thymine.

70. (new): The method of claim 67, wherein the pyrimidine base is uracil.

71. (new): The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is acyl.

72. (new): The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is H.

73. (new) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an amino acid ester.

74. (new): The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched, or cyclic alkyl.

75. (new) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.

76. (new) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R' wherein R' is aryl.

77. (new) The method of claim 71, wherein R^2 is acetyl.

78. (new) The method of claim 71, wherein R^2 is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl, or 2-propenyl.

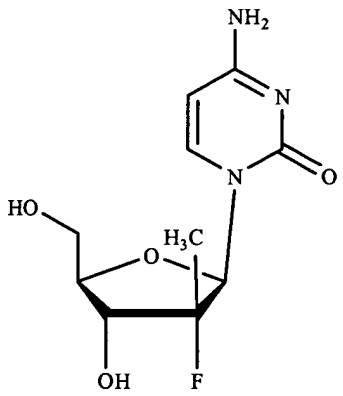
79. (new) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.

80. (new) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic α, β, γ, or δ amino acid.

81. (new) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.

82. (new) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an ester of valine.

83. (new) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound has the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

84. (new) The method of claim 67 or 83 wherein host is human.